THE RED RIVER VALLEY POTATO RESEARCH CENTER  
AT EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA

By Lyle Currie, Secretary
Red River Valley Potato Growers Association

The Red River Valley Potato Research Center was established in 1948. Owned by the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, the Research Center, a cooperative effort of the United States Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, North Dakota College of Agriculture, and the grower's association, is dedicated to the improvement in the production, handling, storage and marketing of potatoes. Built at a cost of $150,000.00, the Research Center consists of an office building containing office space, chemistry and cooking laboratories, a large potato storage house and engineering laboratory.

In addition to the Research Center, a 480 acre research farm, located 8 miles southwest of Grand Forks, in North Dakota, is owned by the Association. Here scientists test new varieties, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers, soil management methods, etc., all toward the production of higher quality potatoes. The farm is also a laboratory on which new equipment and new methods are tested. The farm produces potatoes for use in storage, handling and shipping studies, throughout the winter. The fields provide the ideal place to try out new equipment for planting, harvesting and handling, as well as tests on dusting, spacing, improving maturity, and so forth.

Trials do not end with the storage of a crop as further work may include grading, shipping, cooking tests and processing. All together the Research Center offers the opportunity for testing, all to provide a better product through the elimination of waste and improvement of quality.

U. S. D. A. personnel stationed at the Research Center include Storage and Farm Machinery specialists, Industrial Engineers, Horticulturists, University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University personnel who cooperate in work from their respective stations. The Research Center is also the headquarters of the Red River Valley Growers Association staff.

The Potato Field Day at the Potato Research Farm annually attracts hundreds of potato growers from the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota. New varieties from all potato Experiment Stations are tested for yield, marketing and processing qualities. Approximately one thousand new seedling selections from the Minnesota and North Dakota Stations are tested annually and are dug for viewing on Field Day. Extensive field tests are made of fertilizers, fungicidal and insecticide materials, seed treating compounds, soil and cultural tests.